

THE  
K. Oldbottom (O.)<sup>1413</sup>  
QUAKER'S ANSWER  
TO THE  
WEAVER'S LETTER.

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*Nulla salus Bello : pacem te posseimus omnes  
Turne, Simul pacis solum inviolabile pignus.  
Primus Ego, invisum quem tu tibi singis, et esse  
Nil moror, en supplex venio: miserere tuorum :  
Pone animos, et pulsus abi* —————

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THE  
QUAKER'S ANSWER  
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*Friend SHUTTLE,*



HY Country is beholden to thee  
for thy friendly Admonition, and  
I in the Name of many thy Well-  
wishers return thee Thanks. Had  
thy Paper come abroad sooner, ve-

Thou seemest, my Friend, to know somewhat of the Matters whereof thou writest, and not to speak at Random, as many others do ; thou wilt not doubt therefore of the Truth of that I tell thee, that a new Distemper, which I call the *Political Scab*, hath infected the People hereabouts ; insomuch, that they who used some Months ago, to spend the Day in profitable Labour, do now, (as the S— Historian describes the *Atbenians* \*) *Spend their Time in nothing else but either to tell or to bear some new Things* : This Distemper is in my Sense more dreadful than even that among the Horned Cattle ; if a Stop is not speedily put to it, it may bring down the stoutest of us, and make us cry out for Mercy. Believe me the Presbyterians here keep more Holidays now, than the Papists about thee ; the very Girls had left their Wheels, and were become Patriots.

We who study to be quiet and do our own Business, that we may walk honestly to them that are without, and have lack of nothing : Even *We* begin to feel the Malignity of it. *We* invite and encourage thee therefore to go on with thy seasonable and salutary Admonitions. It is a Work of Charity to help those who idly fancy they are rich, and increased in Goods, to see that they are poor and blind and naked.

The Things of a contrary Tenor to what thou writest, which have been reported here, are very strange, and appeared to me, though confidently affirmed, to be quite incredible.

If the Bill rejected, in the Form it came back to us, gave the King a Power to call and take away our Money, it is a Wonder he was so long about it and let it continue so long among us : It seems by thy Account that it run in the same Form the last Session : and if from thence he derived such a Power, I am too incredulous to believe, he would have forbore the Exercise of that Power, 'till we had time to recal our Word, and renew our Claim. If the People of *Ireland* gave him in their last Session a Power to dispose of their Money to his own Liking, (which they now say the Words in the Preamble of this Bill imply) it is surely foolish in them to say that his Consent is not necessary to the Application of it now : These Things in my Opinion hang not fitly together : If these Men are no better Patriots than they are Reasoners, I should be sorry, I will tell thee, to trust them with the Care of my Property.

For this Reason as little do I believe that the King did disapprove of what his Servants have done here, tho' it is confidently given out, that he did express so much in private Conference with *James Fitzgerald* whom thou calledst Ld. *K—re*, or that *H—y P—m* was dissatisfied with the Orders of Council signed in his Absence, and declared no more should be done of that sort ; and yet by such idle Reports the Spirit of Disaffection, as thou writest hath been propagated among the Unthinking, who swallow greedily all that is told of this Sort, not considering how improbable the Things are in themselves, and how

As thou hast helped to open the Eyes and cool the Tempers of many, we wish thee therefore to go on and perfect the good Work, by informing us more particularly of the Truth of the Reports now mentioned, and many others which I suppose have come to thy Ears, as well as ours, and whereof thou must have more perfect Knowledge than we can at this Distance. More particularly we would desire, if it be not irksome to thee, thou wouldest say somewhat of the Man they call the Primate. His Friends hereabouts say he is in Disposition and Principles very moderate, that he is gentle also, and civil in his Deportment : *not greedy of filthy Lucre, nor given to Wine* : All we know of him here, is, that he is very easy with his Tenants ; a thing, thou knowest, that deservedly weighs much with People of our Rank ; and in this hath set an Example, that many who reproach him, would do well to copy. We have indeed been told also of large Sums he hath given for building and repairing of Churches, but that is a Matter, tho' good in thy Eyes, not of Praise with us, because not agreeable to our Way. Yet I can find some of his own Sort hereabout were offended at his refusing to give of his Money to the building of an House for the idolatrous Worship of the Mass, in the Town of *Armagh*, some Years ago ; which by the bye, was an odd Request to a Man in his Station and Office, to come too from a Priest of the *Levitical* Order.

In Truth, Friend *Shuttle*, if what thou hast

there is an End of the Matter ; if that be the original Cause of the Man's Discontent, his Friends will certainly soon forsake him. It were as reasonable for me to quarrel with my Land-lord for not making me his Agent, or for not giving it to the Friend I recommended, whilst he has Friends of his own, whom he knows better, and thinks he can more safely trust. It is however, such a Cause, as I should suppose he would not be fond of owning, but being charged with it, he must now clear himself, or it will look ill, and in the End, I'll lay my Life will be the undoing of him. It is for the Loaves that, generally speaking, the Multitudes follow ; Ale and Bonefires may raise the Spirits of the most Indigent for a while, but People cannot subsist by those things.

P. 7. Thou also chargest him home ; those are cutting Questions thou putttest ; it behoveth him verily or his Friends to answer them : If he has formerly sollicited Pensions for his Friends, and obtained them without Parliamentary Consent, it is such a Confession, indeed Proof of a guilty and bad Conduct now, as must make the the Man blush if he hath Shame in him.

Many other Things I was minded to write of unto thee, but that I am shy of meddling with what is not my proper Busines : My Trade thou knowest is to *Whiten* all that comes to my Hands, not to *Blacken* : it seldom happens but that we can make the blackest whiter than we found it ; yet I have met with Pieces, of so stubborn and so bad Texture, that no Art or Pains could fit

it for the Market, and I doubt this now before  
me is of that Sort: Therefore I will detain thee  
no longer than just to tell thee, that the Scrap of  
prophane Learning prefixed to my Letter, I got  
from a Neighbour, who is a Scholar, and tells  
me it is in the same Book with thy own, and eve-  
ry whit as *a-propos*.

The Friend hereabouts greet thee,

Farewel.

March 6th,

1754.

OBADIAH OLDBOTTOM.



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